United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1558
11 January 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, continuing Paris visit, welcomes final communique from NATO Summit in Brussels, saying it will strengthen United Nations role in promoting peace; to begin Geneva visit tomorrow.

+ Government of Guatemala and opposition URNG, after four-day meeting in Mexico City, sign framework agreement for resuming peace negotiations suspended last May; agreement offers new mechanisms to promote peace process.

+ Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Public Policy urges Member States to contribute to Trust Fund for commemoration of fiftieth anniversary of United Nations.

* * *

Continuing his visit to Paris, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with French Defence Minister François Leotard, who was accompanied by Admiral Jacques Lanxade, Army Chief of Staff. According to a United Nations spokesman, the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to the French Government for its important contribution to United Nations peace-keeping operations. He also welcomed the political will expressed in the final communique of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit, held in Brussels this week, saying it would strengthen the United Nations role in favour of peace.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to address a special session of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee this afternoon, the spokesman said. He was expected to have meetings later with Senate President Rene Monory, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. The Secretary-General will begin a working visit to Geneva tomorrow, where he will meet with his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

* * *

The Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) yesterday signed a framework agreement for resuming the

(more)

For information media—not an official record

peace negotiations suspended last May, according to a United Nations spokesman. The signing came at the end of a four-day meeting in Mexico City held under the auspices of the Secretary-General. The framework agreement offers several new mechanisms to promote the peace process, while building on agreements previously reached by the parties.

Regarding the role of the United Nations, the parties asked the Secretary-General to appoint a moderator who will propose initiatives to facilitate the signing of a peace agreement. The parties also decided to ask the Organization to verify all agreements reached during their negotiations. They agreed to meet during the latter half of February to discuss an agreement on human rights and the timetable for considering the negotiation agenda.

* * *

Gillian Martin Sorensen, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, today urged Member States to consider contributing to the Trust Fund for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. Addressing the Preparatory Committee for the anniversary, she said that while there had been an encouraging response from the corporate community, the response from countries had been somewhat disappointing. Anything representatives could do to lend some urgency to the planning process would be greatly appreciated.

The Special Adviser also called on representatives to ask their national committees to convey details of their major events to the United Nations, so that the master calendar for the year might be complete and in order to foster collaborative projects. She stressed the importance of global coverage of the commemoration and reviewed the current status of preparations for the event.

* *** *